

offered a seed, some merely crawled over it and hesitated; nearly all turned toward it and showed some interest in it. None of these ants, however, picked up the seed, although they were large enough to have done so. There was indication that the ants reacted less quickly and precipitously to the Bloodroot seeds, in some instances, than they did to the Trillium seeds in the 1939 and 1940 experiments.

Twelve ants, however, made prompt, positive reactions, usually dragging away the seed; these ants were collected and identified¹. The twelve specimens comprised three species: the largest, *Formica neogagates*, the middle sized, *Myrmica emeryana*, the smallest, *Lasius americanus*. *Lasius americanus* is the only species which was also a positive reactor to the *Trillium grandiflorum* seeds² in 1940.

The Bloodroot plant, like the Trillium, has no mechanical means of disseminating its seeds. Dissemination is apparently effectively accomplished by ants which respond to the lure of the caruncle. Strasburger³ accounts for the attractiveness of this lure to ants by the presence of an abundance of oils, explaining "the distribution of certain seeds by ants . . . , attracted to remove and accumulate the seeds, by the abundance of oil in the elaiosome-containing tissue of the appendages, such as the caruncle."

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EUPHORBIA GLYPTOSPERMA IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In the routine work of identifying plants received by a department of Botany, one occasionally chances upon a specimen of more than ordinary interest. Such was a lawn weed sent in recently by Mr. T. A. Bachand of Huntington, Massachusetts, and which we identified as *Euphorbia glyptosperma* Engelm. Through the kindness of the Gray Herbarium the specimen was submitted to Dr. L. C. Wheeler who recently contributed to RHODORA a revision of the *Chamaesyce* section of *Euphorbia*. Dr. Wheeler

¹ All identifications were made by Mr. Lawrence G. Wesson, Jr., Boston, Mass., whose kindness is much appreciated.

² Ibid., RHODORA, 1941.

³ Strasburger's Text-book of Botany. Fifth edition, by Dr. Fitting and others. 1921. p. 586-7.

writes us: "So far as I have any record this is the first collection of the species in Massachusetts, but in view of its general wide range and its occurrence in adjacent states, its presence in Massachusetts is not surprising."

Mr. Bachand responded graciously to a request for additional material by sending us some thirty plants, of which about one-third were the common *Euphorbia maculata* L. So the two species were apparently growing in close association.

Sheets have been deposited in the Gray and the New England Botanical Club Herbaria, also at the National Herbarium in Washington and at the Massachusetts State College.—R. E. TORREY, Massachusetts State College, Amherst.

PINELLIA TERNATA IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

MARY-ELIZABETH PIERCE

To the lengthening list of exotic plants which seem able to maintain themselves adventitiously in eastern United States should be added *Pinellia ternata* (Thunb.) Breitenbach, a member of the Araceae widely distributed in China and Japan. The ternately dissected leaves, about eight inches high, and the slender, typically aroid flower-stalk, ten to twelve inches long, arise from a brittle, subterranean rhizome. Bulblets are produced on the leaf-stalk, both below the ground line and at the joining of the leaflets. These bulblets sometimes sprout into young plants before they fall from the parent stem. The colony at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was discovered in August of 1941 on a grassy bank near a brook. It covers several square feet and seems to be well established. In fact, we suspect that this is not its first year with us and wonder how long it has escaped notice. With its bulblets and root-stocks it seems able to make itself thoroughly at home. The plants were in flower about the tenth of August. Just how the plant was introduced is quite a mystery, since no new planting has been made in that area for at least five years. In the National Herbarium there is a specimen labeled *Pinellia tripartita* collected in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, in May of 1935, "accidentally introduced." This specimen closely resembles our plant and from the published descriptions there seems to be very little difference be-